

**Town of Rowe**  
Board of Selectmen – Minutes  
Wednesday, September 21, 2016 – 3:00 pm  
Rowe Town Hall

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**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Wilson at 3:00pm.

**Present:** Chair Wilson, Vice-Chair Quist, Selectman Dennis May and Executive Secretary Janice Boudreau

**Also Present:** Tracey Baronas, David Dvore

**Minutes** **Motion to accept Minutes of September 15, 2016:** Upon review, a motion was made by Vice-Chair Quist to accept the Minutes of September 15, 2016 as presented. The motion, seconded by Selectman May, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

**3:00 pm Interview with Town Accountant:** Select Board Members met with Town Accountant Tracey Baronas to identify Other Funds Carry-overs and update the Board on the Accounting Department. In addition, setting up an Accounting System for the Municipal Light Plant was discussed briefly.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. 3:30pm David Dvore to review Memorandum of Understanding with MBI: David Dvore, MA Broadband Institute Liaison updated Select Board Members on the progress with the Last Mile Broadband project and explained the process:
  - a. Verizon is required by Federal law to maintain telephone service but this does not pertain to the internet and the maintenance will no longer occur once the equipment deteriorates since the parts to service operation are no longer manufactured. Broadband will be needed to obtain internet in the future
  - b. David explained the process of the Town preparing for bringing broadband to town with the first step of completing the Readiness Evaluation and Recommendation Form to MA Broadband Institute (MBI) along with supporting documents. Todd Corcoran, Technical Program Manager of Mass Tech Collaborative then reviewed and wrote a recommendation for Rowe to proceed ahead.
  - c. A 'Memorandum of Agreement' was presented by David for Pole Survey work to be started as soon as possible.
  - d. David explained that the regional Municipal Light Plant Cooperative structure would benefit all towns because we would own and control the service.
  - e. Following the pole survey the town would negotiate a project agreement with MBI administering the design and engineering phase
  - f. Costs to Rowe are \$1,300,00.00 of which MBI funding approximately 40%.

**Motion to Sign Memorandum of Agreement:** Upon review, Chair Wilson made a motion to sign the Memorandum of Agreement for the Pole Survey work. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Quist, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

**Motion to Sign Readiness Evaluation and Recommendation:** Chair Wilson made a motion to sign the Readiness Evaluation and Recommendation for the Town of Rowe. The motion, seconded by Selectman May, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

2. Update on Last Mile and Financing Options Now That the Private Sector is interested:  
Chair Wilson said the Select Board and the Broadband Committee are meeting with a company that is interested in providing the construction and network operation of the Last Mile throughout an undetermined number of Western MA towns. The consortium, of Corning, Graybar and Fujitsu would provide a business plan for review.
3. Appoint Jim McKee to Upper Pioneer Valley Veteran's Service Dist. Advisory Board:  
Janice Boudreau reported that Jim McKee agreed to serve as Veteran's Service Advisory Board as representative for Rowe.

**Motion to Appoint:** Chair Wilson made a motion to appoint Jim McKee to serve as Upper Pioneer Valley Veteran's Service District Advisory Board Member for Rowe. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Quist, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. 5:00pm Chief Shippee and Discussion of First Responder Pay: Chief Shippee asked about receiving First Responder pay because she responds to medical calls while not on regular Police duty. She responded to 26 medical calls last year. Since there was a decision to pay First Responders per event in the new fiscal year, it was agreed Ms. Shippee should be paid for her calls and Vice-Chair Quist will clarify whether it is per hour or per call.
2. DLTA Letter: Chair Wilson presented a letter to be sent to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Representative Paul Mark and Secretary of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance in support of the District Local Technical Assistance program which provides training, educational seminars and professional assistance.

**Motion to Sign Letters:** Upon review and discussion, Chair Wilson made a motion to sign the letter in support of the District Local Technical Assistance program to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Representative Paul Mark and Secretary of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance. The motion, seconded by Selectman May, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

3. Update on Tunnel Road Issues: Chair Wilson said that her research found the vote in 1964 at Town Meeting to abandon Tunnel Road, however, it did not pass. Following discussion with Town Counsel, it was recommended that the Select Board conduct a Hearing to discuss Discontinuance of Maintenance of lower Tunnel Road. In addition, Chair Wilson would speak with Town Counsel about whether the Town could hire a contractor to plow for the 2

households that were accessed by the Tunnel Bridge that was deemed unsafe for Town vehicles that weighed over 6 tons.

**Motion to Hold Hearing:** Following discussion, Chair Wilson made a motion, that on advisement of Town Counsel, the Select Board hold a Public Hearing to discuss abandonment of the 2.1 miles of lower Tunnel Road that are currently not maintained. The motion, seconded by Selectman May, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

4. Plan a Mid-November STM for the Mohawk Vote: Chair Wilson said that following the joint meeting with School Committee and Finance Committee concerning Rowe re-joining the Mohawk Trail Regional School District, it is by law now up to the citizens to decide. It was agreed to hold the meeting in November. The date of November 2, 2016 was selected.
5. FCSWMD: Sign DEP Grant Agreement – Small Scale Initiative Grant: Select Board Members reviewed the Department of Environmental Protection grant Agreement for the 'Small Scale Initiative Grant' of \$500.00 awarded to Rowe to be used for recycling efforts.

**Motion to Sign Agreement:** Chair Wilson made a motion to sign the MA Department of Environmental Protection 'Small Scale Initiative Grant' of \$500.00 Agreement awarded to Rowe. The motion, seconded by Selectman May, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

6. FRCOG Regional Pedestrian Plan Request: Following review, it was decided the Pedestrian Plan was not applicable for Rowe.
7. Request from Assessors Chair to BOS for a Correction on Selectman's Override Amount: Assessors Chair Rick Williams requested the Select Board amend the Municipal Capital Stabilization Override amount that was voted upon March 9, 2016.

**Motion to Amend Vote:** Chair Wilson made a motion to amend the vote of March 9, 2016 to correct the amount that was reflected in the vote taken due to the correction provided from the Assessor's Chair that was \$ 0.99 off from \$187,329.99 to \$187,329.00. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Quist, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

8. Congressman Neal Visit to Yankee Rowe: Walt Quist reported that Congressman Neal and his Staff will meet with Brian Smith, Site Manager of Yankee Rowe, the Select Board Chair and the Executive Secretary.

Citizen Comments

Adjournment

**Warrants:** FY17 W07 and FY17 P07 were reviewed and signed.

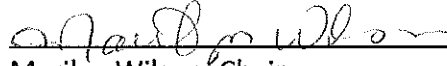
**Adjournment:** Seeing no further business, Chair Wilson made a motion to adjourn the Meeting at 6:20 pm. The motion, seconded by Selectman May, unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

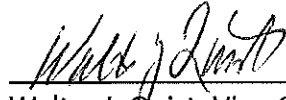
Respectfully Submitted,

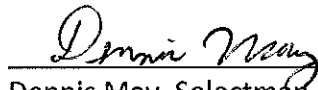
Janice Boudreau  
Executive Secretary

Approval Date: November 30, 2016

Approved:

  
Marilyn Wilson, Chair

  
Walter J. Quist, Vice-Chair

  
Dennis May, Selectman

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Agenda 09-21-16
- Email: Bob Capstick re: Congressman Neal visit to Yankee 10/3/16
- FCSWMD Letter and Grant Agreement (4 pgs.)
- Jenn Morse email re: First Responder pay
- FRCOG Pedestrian Plan (2 pgs.) Map
- MA Endangered Species Act Authorization for Emergency Action (2 pgs.)
- Understanding Municipal Debt – Division of Local Services – Ma Dept. of Revenue (4 pgs.)
- MBI – Readiness Evaluation and Recommendation
- Last Mile Town Readiness Submission Form (21 pgs.)
- MBI Memorandum of Agreement
- BOS Minutes of 03-09-16